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Letter dated 16 May 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the communiqué of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on the situation in Somalia and the implementation of the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia (annex I) and the related report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (annex II), submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2297 (2016).

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annexes to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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Annex I

Communiqué on the situation in Somalia and the implementation of the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia

[Original: English and French]

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 684th meeting, held on 28 April 2017, adopted the following decision on the situation in Somalia and the implementation of the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM):

The Peace and Security Council,

1. **Takes note** of the report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, as well as the briefing given by the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, on the situation in Somalia and the implementation of the AMISOM mandate, and also takes note of the statements made by the representatives of Ethiopia, Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and as African member of the United Nations Security Council, as well as by the representatives of China, Egypt, France, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the European Union and the United Nations;

2. **Recalls** its previous decisions on the situation in Somalia and AMISOM, including those in communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.(DCXLIX), adopted at its 649th meeting, held on 16 January 2017; communiqué PSC/PR/COMM (DCXXII), adopted at its 622nd meeting, held on 6 September 2016; communiqué PSC/PR/COMM (DCVIII), adopted at its 608th meeting, held on 29 June 2016; and communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.2(DXCV), adopted at its 595th meeting, held on 28 April 2016;

3. **Commends** the people and the Federal Government of Somalia on the recent positive political developments in the country. In this regard, the Council **welcomes** the successful completion of the presidential and parliamentary elections as an important step towards democratization, sustainable peace, security and reconciliation in Somalia. The Council **congratulates** President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed on his election as the President of Somalia and **welcomes** the initial steps that have been taken already under his leadership to build on the security and political achievements in Somalia. In this respect, the Council **commends** the political agreement on a national security architecture and renewed efforts towards an inclusive political consensus between the Federal Government of Somalia and the Federal States;

4. **Encourages** the new administration of the Federal Government of Somalia to spare no effort in the realization of inclusive local reconciliation, the promotion of the extension of State authority and services, the finalization of the constitutional review process and the establishment of credible institutions that will allow for a universal suffrage vote by 2020;

5. **Notes with concern** the continued security threats posed by Al-Shabaab, characterized by asymmetrical attacks against civilian populations, including women and children, and AMISOM personnel. In this context, Council **stresses** the importance of undertaking Operation Juba Valley Corridor II. In this respect, the Council **expresses** appreciation to the European Union and the United Nations, as well as other bilateral donors, for their financial and in-kind support to AMISOM. The Council **reiterates the need** for the continued provision of the logistics support package to AMISOM operations, especially with respect to the servicing of eligible equipment by the United Nations Support Office in Somalia and the timely

provision of logistical support previously requested from the United Nations and international partners for the envisaged Operation Juba Valley Corridor II, without any further delay;

6. **Recalls** the visits by the Chairperson of the Commission on 18 March 2017, as well as that of the members of the Peace and Security Council from 23 to 26 March 2017, as a further testament to the strong commitment of the African Union to sustaining the political and security gains made in Somalia. The Council **looks forward to** the upcoming official visit by President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed to the Commission, as a manifestation of a renewed partnership between Somalia and the African Union in the promotion of peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Somalia;

7. **Expresses deep concern** over the humanitarian crisis in Somalia, brought about by the current drought and the continued threat of famine, which has led to the displacement of over 500,000 persons and immense loss of lives and livelihoods. The Council **reaffirms** its solidarity with the people and Government of Somalia in their efforts to resolve this humanitarian challenge;

8. **Reiterates the need** for coordinated and effective capacity building of the Somali National Security Forces in order to take over primary security responsibility from AMISOM. In this respect, the Council **takes note** of the commendable efforts made in garnering consensus and inclusivity on a national security architecture, and **stresses the need** for enhanced coordination and coherence of support from international partners to Somali security institutions in support of the implementation of this security architecture;

9. **Further recalls** its decision, as contained in communiqué PSC/PR/COMM (DCXXII), adopted at its 622nd meeting, held on 6 September 2016, calling upon the United Nations Security Council to consider lifting the arms embargo imposed on Somalia pursuant to its resolution 2244 (2015), as a critical aspect of building Somali security institutions, and to ensure that the criteria for the provision of arms is commensurate with the prevailing state of security in Somalia. The Council **stresses** the need for the Federal Government of Somalia to ensure the highest degree of responsibility in the management, storage and security of stockpiles;

10. **Underscores the importance** of the upcoming African Union-United Nations joint strategic review on Somalia in defining the future of the AMISOM presence in Somalia, and **notes** that the strategic review will provide an opportunity to review and redefine tasks and options for the reconfiguration of AMISOM;

11. **Decides to renew** the mandate of AMISOM until 30 November 2017, with a maximum authorized strength of 22,126 uniformed personnel, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 10 of its decision in communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.2(DXCV), adopted at its 595th meeting, held on 28 April 2016, as well as the decision of the United Nations Security Council, as contained in paragraph 4 of its resolution 2297 (2016), pending the conduct and outcomes of the African Union-United Nations joint strategic review;

12. **Emphasizes the need** for requisite resourcing of AMISOM to fulfil its current mandate. In this regard, the Council reiterates the call for securing complementary, predictable and sustainable funding for AMISOM, including through United Nations assessed contributions within the framework of enhanced partnership, following the signing by the United Nations Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the Commission of a joint African Union-United Nations framework for enhanced partnership in peace and security during the United Nations-African Union annual conference, held on 19 April 2017 in New York;

13. **Takes note** of the forthcoming conference on Somalia to be held in London, and **looks forward** to the outcome of this meeting, in particular with regard to the support for Africa's action in Somalia through the enhancement of AMISOM and the Somalia National Security Forces;

14. **Takes note** of the efforts made by the Commission to develop standard operating procedures for ex gratia payments in the form of humanitarian and social compensation in cases of unintended civilian harm during AMISOM operations. Within this context, the Council **requests** the Commission to submit the standard operating procedures to the Council for consideration;

15. **Also takes note** of the update by the Commission on the recent conduct of a 10-year lessons-learned study on AMISOM, in line with its decisions in communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.(DCXLIX), adopted at its 649th meeting, held on 16 January 2017, and communiqué PSC/PR/COMM (DCXXII), adopted at its 622nd meeting, held on 6 September 2016. In this regard, the Council **requests** the Commission to submit to the Council the report of the 10-year lessons-learned study, and **agrees** to hold, at the earliest possible date, a dedicated session to consider the report;

16. **Expresses its gratitude** to the police- and troop-contributing countries of AMISOM, namely, Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda, as well as to AMISOM civilian personnel, for their sacrifices, contributions and sustained commitment in Somalia;

17. **Requests** the Commission to transmit the present communiqué and the report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the situation in Somalia and the implementation of the AMISOM mandate to the United Nations Secretary-General for onward transmission to the United Nations Security Council for its action, as appropriate;

18. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.

Annex II

Report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on the situation in Somalia and the implementation of the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia

[Original: English and French]

I. Introduction

1. The present report on the situation in Somalia, including the implementation of concept of operations of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), is being submitted to the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, pursuant to its previous decisions on Somalia and AMISOM, in particular those contained in communiqué PSC/PR/COMM (DCXLIX), adopted at its 649th meeting, held on 16 January 2017; communiqué PSC/PR/COMM(DCXXII), adopted at its 622nd meeting, held on 6 September 2016; communique PSC/PR/COMM(DCVIII), adopted at its 608th meeting, held on 29 June 2016; and communiqué PSC/PR/COMM.2(DXCV), adopted at its 595th meeting, held on 28 April 2016, in which Council requested periodic updates on the situation in Somalia and AMISOM. In addition, the report and the subsequent Council decision will be transmitted to the United Nations Security Council, pursuant to paragraphs 18 and 44 of its resolution 2297 (2016). In that resolution, the United Nations Security Council requested the African Union to keep it regularly informed, through the Secretary-General, on the implementation of the AMISOM mandate. The present report, therefore, covers major political, security and humanitarian developments, as well as AMISOM multidimensional operations in Somalia since January 2017.

II. Main political and related developments

2. AMISOM and international partners intensified engagements with key Somali stakeholders in the build-up to the presidential election. In this regard, AMISOM, in coordination with the Somali National Security Forces, successfully implemented the Mogadishu election security plan, leading to a peaceful presidential election and the smooth transfer of power. In line with resolution 2297 (2016), and in support of the Government of Somalia, AMISOM implemented concrete measures to ensure enhanced transparency and legitimacy of the electoral process by providing security, including during the by-election for five seats in the Lower House (the House of the People) and the remaining two seats in the Upper House, ahead of the presidential election. In addition, an African Union electoral support mission, which was deployed to Somalia for six months to assess the electoral process and provide technical advice to AMISOM political leadership, significantly contributed to ensuring the transparency, legitimacy and credibility of the electoral process.

3. Consequently, Somalia achieved a major milestone on 8 February 2017, when 328 members of a joint session of the bicameral Federal Parliament elected Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed as the new President of Somalia, an event that was monitored by local and international observers. Although the election was not conducted through universal suffrage, the "expanded" indirect process was a major step in providing a popular mandate for elected officials and captured the collective mood, ambition and the general will of the Somali people, including those in the diaspora. This historic event could not have been achieved without the efforts of AMISOM to providing security, safe passage and protection to all those involved in the electoral process.

4. During the inauguration ceremony, which was attended by the outgoing President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, former President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and about 124 representatives of foreign delegations, President Mohamed promised to fight corruption and work towards national reconciliation and good governance in order to restore the rule of law. Pledging a multi-pronged approach to defeating Al-Shabaab, he expressed renewed commitment to building effective national security forces capable of providing security for the country. In addition, President Mohammed praised the outgoing administration and the Federal Parliament for organizing the election and commended AMISOM for its supportive role in securing five election sites and its overall contribution towards the improvement of security across Somalia over the last 10 years.

5. On 23 February 2017, President Mohamed nominated Hassan Ali Kheyre as Prime Minister, who was subsequently endorsed by the Federal Parliament on 1 March 2017. Likewise, the incoming Prime Minister announced his new Council of Ministers, consisting of 68 members, which was approved by a joint session of the Federal Parliament on 29 March 2017. In addition, the Prime Minister outlined the Government's agenda, the key priorities of which include the eradication of poverty, economic development, effective national security services capable of eradicating the scourge of terrorism, and the completion of a constitutional review process in order to lay the foundations for universal suffrage in 2020. To that end, AMISOM remains committed to supporting the Government's efforts towards the delivery of concrete outcomes on those priorities.

6. The African Union and the wider international community have recognized the recent political developments in Somalia, especially in the area of elections. In that respect, Somalia has welcomed high-profile delegations since the inauguration of the new president, including the visit by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, on 18 March 2016. During that visit, the Chairperson pledged $100,000 in support of the drought response in Somalia. In addition, the Peace and Security Council conducted a field mission to Somalia, from 23 to 26 March 2017. Other international dignitaries who have recently visited Somalia include United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, and Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Boris Johnson. Those visits demonstrate the concrete commitment of the African Union and international partners to the promotion of peace, security and stability in Somalia.

III. Security situation

7. Al-Shabaab continues to pose a severe asymmetrical threat to the people of Somalia, the Federal Government of Somalia and AMISOM. The attacks mainly include direct, grenade and mortar attacks on public places and AMISOM bases. There have also been incidents of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices and ambushes reinforced with improvised explosive devices on AMISOM convoys along the main supply routes. Despite numerous defections of Al-Shabaab fighters, in particular in sectors 1, 3 and 4, and significant military achievements, AMISOM troops continue to suffer injuries and fatalities owing to the precarious security environment and unstable situation in which AMISOM troops operate.

8. Despite these security challenges, AMISOM continues to register noticeable progress towards enhancing its striking and operational capacity to effectively combat, deplete and eventually destroy Al-Shabaab. However, the limited capabilities of AMISOM have constrained its ability to ensure a sustained and progressive reduction of the Al-Shabaab threat. In this regard, it is worth noting the lack of counter-improvised explosive device capability, evolving improvised

explosive device innovations, lack of intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance assets, and most importantly, insufficient early recovery efforts to capitalize on AMISOM successes in order to win the hearts and minds of the local communities. Therefore, besides the acquisition of the necessary military equipment, the integration of the national security forces in a manner that reflects the national outlook and the enhancement of the current stabilization efforts by all concerned stakeholders are required.

IV. Deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia

9. AMISOM continues to maintain the deployment of the authorized uniformed personnel and their presence in all sectors, in accordance with resolution 2297 (2016) and the AMISOM concept of operations. To ensure free movement, safe passage and protection of those involved in the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia, as well as protection of the electoral process, AMISOM extended the deployment of military and police personnel to Cadaado as part of the security plan for the presidential election. Overall, AMISOM deployments are designed to assist in the establishment of the conditions necessary for effective and legitimate governance across Somalia, in coordination with the national security forces.

10. Progress has also been registered in the operationalization of the mission enabling units within AMISOM, with an initial mission enabling unit set up in sector 5. Accordingly, the main supply routes in sector 5 have been cleared, improved and secured. It is anticipated that full implementation across all sectors will enhance security along the main supply routes, in particular those essential to the provision of humanitarian assistance and the delivery of logistical support to AMISOM.

11. The first meeting of AMISOM police-contributing countries was held on 11 April 2017 in Addis Ababa. The representative of the national police force outlined the critical support requirements for the development of the force. One of the key outcomes of that meeting was a commitment and pledge by the police-contributing countries to provide additional police capabilities, including formed police units, to AMISOM.

V. Support of the African Union Mission in Somalia to the national security forces

12. In accordance with the provisions of resolution 2297 (2016), considerable efforts have been made to reduce the threat posed by Al-Shabaab and other armed opposition groups. In this regard, AMISOM police and military components, in collaboration with the national police force, were responsible for coordinating election security and ensured the delivery of professional, responsive and robust policing in accordance with their mandate. Daily, high-visibility patrols and intelligence-led cordon and search operations were conducted in various districts in Baidoa, Kismaayo and Mogadishu to proactively deter criminal and Al-Shabaab terrorist activities. In addition to reducing incidences of attacks and crime in Baidoa, Kismaayo and Mogadishu, these joint operations are part of the ongoing efforts to implement the national security plans and contribute to wider security sector reform efforts, including through the training and mentoring of the national security forces.

13. To assist with free movement and safe passage and protection of all involved with the peace and reconciliation process and the security of the electoral process, AMISOM continued to support the national security forces in the formulation and

execution of joint election security plans and in the maintenance of the joint security committees and the joint operation centres, with the aim of enhancing coordination, communication and intelligence sharing. In addition, AMISOM provided technical assistance and advisory support to the indirect electoral implementation teams at the federal and state levels and deployed military and police personnel at all election venues to ensure election security and incident-free parliamentary and presidential elections and to secure the inauguration ceremony of the newly elected president.

14. As part of the ongoing efforts to establish state police institutions, as provided for in the Provisional Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia (2012), and with a focus on delivering basic policing services and functions throughout Somalia, AMISOM police recruited, vetted and trained 600 new police officers for the South West State police force and 400 police officers for the Jubbaland State police force. The trained police officers were deployed to key police stations in Baidoa and Kismaayo and to the recovered areas of Jubbaland State to provide policing to communities and to fast track and support stabilization in those areas. Currently, 201 police officers are being trained in Kismaayo for deployment in Jubbaland State. AMISOM also trained and deployed 88 Somali police officers in Mogadishu and continued to provide post-training mentoring support to ensure professionalism.

15. With regards to support for the stabilization and extension of police services and functions, AMISOM finalized and submitted quick impact project implementation documents, in line with the first quarter-approved project proposals under the Danish Fund. The documents focus primarily on the training and development of the national police forces, the provision of logistical support to identified federal and state police stations, support to the review of the police and functional organizational structures, and the alignment of the federal and state police forces with the terms of the Provisional Constitution. The African Union was also able to mobilize funding and resources from the Government of Japan for the rehabilitation and equipping of police stations, the training of police officers and community policing outreach programmes to fight radicalization and extremist propaganda. AMISOM's efforts are designed to empower and develop the national police force in a gradual, structured and sustainable manner to facilitate a gradual takeover of responsibilities for internal security and the maintenance of law and order by the federal and state police forces.

16. In accordance with best practices, accountability and continued support to the protection, human rights and gender cluster were assured through various community sensitization campaigns conducted by AMISOM and the distribution of educational material on sexual and gender-based violence at functional police stations and to communities in Baidoa, Beledweyne and Kismaayo focusing on family violence, sexual offences and child protection. Police officers were trained and mentored on referral pathways in response to sexual and gender-based violence, procedures for medical examination and treatment, the safety of the victims/survivors and their families, psychosocial support and legal services. The sensitization campaigns were aimed at enhancing their knowledge of professional referral systems for the prompt management and treatment of victim/survivors, the safeguarding of corroborative evidence and the prosecution of perpetrators, in line with guidelines for handling cases of sexual and gender-based violence.

VI. Protection of civilians

17. Progress has also been made in raising mission-wide awareness on the protection of civilians and the need to ensure strict compliance with child protection and conduct and discipline policies, including the United Nations human rights due

diligence policy, and international humanitarian and human rights law. In this regard, AMISOM engaged key stakeholders, including the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, the Federal Government of Somalia, civil society and local and international non-governmental organizations at various levels, to highlight issues affecting children and to offer recommendations for intervention. In collaboration with the United Nations information support team, AMISOM started to mount street banners that bear conduct and discipline messages across the capital city and major towns within the AMISOM area of responsibility. Those messages not only reconfirm the commitment of AMISOM to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour, but also lead to improved awareness on the part of the local populace of their right to report all violations perpetrated against them.

18. As a key requirement for ensuring the highest standards of transparency and conduct and discipline for uniformed personnel before they deploy to AMISOM, they receive pre-deployment training to acquaint them with international humanitarian law and human rights law and to ensure that AMISOM operations take into account the cultural sensitivities of Somalia. Despite some setbacks, AMISOM remains strongly committed and has consistently adhered to its obligations under the African Union zero tolerance policy against misconduct and indiscipline and to international humanitarian and human rights law, which is consistent with the United Nations human rights due diligence policy

19. Since the previous report on the situation in Somalia, submitted to the Peace and Security Council at its 649th meeting, held on 16 January 2017, AMISOM has taken concrete steps towards the full operationalization of the Civilian Casualty Tracking, Analysis and Response Cell, in order to enhance its capacity to respond to civilian casualty incidents. Notably, AMISOM submitted a draft of a standard operating procedure, which outlines the procedural guidelines for various Cell operations and processes, to the African Union Commission for approval. Once approved, AMISOM will conduct consultations with relevant stakeholders to initiate the ex gratia payment process, which will allow for the possibility of modest financial compensation, in some cases, for unexpected incidents caused by AMISOM operations.

20. With respect to related developments, AMISOM supported the Ministry of Gender and Human Rights in planning and conducting training on human rights and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence. In addition to designing and providing material with relevant messages, AMISOM also provided technical support in the review and preparation of training content. Furthermore, the Mission produced public education materials, including a short documentary that highlights the complications that can occur as a result of female genital mutilation.

VII. Implementation of the 2016 concept of operations

21. In line with the 2016 concept of operations and tasks outlined in resolution 2297 (2016), AMISOM registered some successes in its efforts to reduce the threat posed by Al-Shabaab and other armed opposition groups. AMISOM, jointly with the national security forces, conducted intelligence-led operations against Al-Shabaab and other armed opposition groups, during which a total of 308 Al-Shabaab militants were killed, 19 arrested and 61 others injured. In addition, a total of 28 AK-47s, 4 PKM machine guns, 2 rocket-propelled grenades, 2 submachine guns, 2 pistols, 2 hand grenades and 1,691 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition were recovered.

22. As part of the ongoing efforts to assess the current status of friendly forces throughout the AMISOM area of responsibility, including their capabilities to

undertake effective operations, AMISOM has completed the assessment and verification of the national army in all sectors. As a result, the leadership of the national army has pledged to fast track the process of acquiring weapons for its soldiers stationed in sectors 2 and 6.

23. In line with national security plans, the 2016 concept of operations and resolution 2297 (2016), AMISOM, in collaboration with the national security forces, conducted limited operations aimed at neutralizing Al-Shabaab's indirect weapons in order to provide protection for key government installations and facilities, and to Somali officials in order to ensure their security and freedom of movement. Likewise, in accordance with resolution 2297 (2016), the Force Commander instructed Sector Commanders to prioritize the clearance of the remaining main supply routes, with the aim of improving the flow of traffic and reducing transportation costs, both for local communities and the delivery of logistical supplies. Consequently, a list of priority main supply routes was shared with Somalia's Minister of Defence to ensure buy-in and facilitate joint operations as part of the ongoing efforts towards the training and mentoring of the national security forces.

24. As part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen AMISOM capabilities in terms of force multipliers, three helicopters from the Kenya Defence Force have been deployed to sector 2 since 15 December 2016.

VIII. Stabilization and the humanitarian situation

25. To assess the impact of various stabilization and early recovery efforts, AMISOM, in coordination with other stabilization partners, organized a joint national stabilization planning forum, which brought together representatives of all federal member states of Somalia and representatives of key stabilization stakeholders, to conceptualize how best to support the national stabilization activities in various recovered areas. Forum participants identified common stabilization goals, which are to be reached through inclusive community engagement and improved coordination with AMISOM operations. To this end, efforts are under way to harmonize stabilization efforts and activities at the federal, regional and district levels, in line with assessed needs and available resources.

26. AMISOM has registered significant progress in community engagement and in promoting understanding between AMISOM and local populations. In this respect, AMISOM engaged members of Parliament of Jubbaland State with the aim of sensitizing them to their roles as representatives of the people of Somalia. Thirty members of Parliament were trained on the legislative process and the role of parliament in conflict resolution, constituent/constituency relations and effective parliamentary committee membership. To ensure the effective transfer of knowledge and skills, the members of Parliament visited the Parliament of Nairobi County, in Kenya, and witnessed committee activities and parliamentary debates.

27. As mandated, AMISOM continues to support community recovery through the provision of numerous quick impact and peace strengthening projects. I am happy to report that these projects, which also include the provision of hospital equipment and the rehabilitation of hospitals, the provision of clean water and the rehabilitation of schools and police stations, are all part of the ongoing efforts to enable longer-term stabilization, in particular in districts liberated from Al-Shabaab, and in Somalia in general.

28. Despite considerable efforts, the humanitarian situation remains dire, with more than 500,000 people displaced from their homes. The increasingly severe and widespread drought, and the resulting displacement and loss of lives and

livelihoods, remain issues of grave concern. In fact, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates that over 6.2 million people are in urgent need of food assistance; 3.3 million people are in severe need of urgent life-saving assistance, and the already precarious situation is likely to turn into a crisis situation if appropriate actions are not taken. In addition, it is estimated that 363,000 children under 5 years of age are acutely malnourished, with a further 71,000 unlikely to survive.

29. According to a recently released food security outlook from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the risk of famine in 2017 remains a high possibility in certain regions. In most parts of the country, populations have started to move, with noticeable migration from the countryside to urban and semi-urban areas, often arriving there in very poor health. Acute diarrheal disease outbreaks and acute shortages of water are also being reported in the Bakool, Gedo, Hiraan, Middle Jubba (Jubba Dhexe) and Middle Shabelle (Shabelle Dhexe) regions. Prices of staple foods are rising fast throughout South and Central Somalia, while livestock prices are sharply declining, since pastoralists, desperate to sell weakened stock before they die, flood the market.

30. Despite security challenges, AMISOM has continued to contribute, within its capabilities, to the creation of the security conditions necessary for the provision of humanitarian assistance. In this respect, AMISOM has secured major supply routes and airstrips and provided armed escorts for the delivery of humanitarian supplies to various areas, including KM 50, Marka and Waajid. Likewise, AMISOM provided medical care to people affected by acute diarrheal disease and cholera in drought affected areas, drilled community boreholes and helped to distribute food to the most vulnerable across sectors.

31. Efforts have also been made to ensure effective civil-military engagement and coordination. In this regard, a monthly meeting of a joint AMISOM-Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs civil-military coordination working group identified the best way to enhance civil-military coordination within the context of the drought emergency. To ensure proper information sharing and agency response in relation to the ongoing drought, AMISOM liaises directly with the coordinator of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in order to speed up the flow of information and response times. As a result, AMISOM monitoring and reporting on the humanitarian situation in areas under its control and in those areas where humanitarian actors have no access or presence has played a key part in enhancing the overall humanitarian response.

IX. Support of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia to the African Union Mission in Somalia

32. The United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) continues to provide logistical support to AMISOM, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 2245 (2015), which mandates UNSOS to provide a logistic support package to 22,126 uniformed AMISOM personnel and 70 civilian AMISOM staff. The support, based on 17 line items, which has consistently enabled AMISOM to expand its operations across the entire Mission area, has largely been satisfactory. As part of the ongoing efforts to address some of the challenges identified in the previous report, noticeable progress has been made in the preparation of vital management instruments meant to streamline and further ensure enhanced accountability, efficiency and timely support. In this regard, the drafting of the support implementation agreements and the standard operating procedures for the Joint Support Operations Centre are at various stages of finalization.

33. The provision of timely and efficient medical support to the troops remains a fundamental part of ensuring the maintenance of morale and preserving combat power. Those services have been adequate with regards to casualty evacuation and patient care at level III hospitals in Nairobi. Nonetheless, there remains a significant shortage of qualified doctors and other professional medical staff at level I and level II hospitals within the Mission area owing to the unstable security situation and unattractive emoluments.

34. Although progress has been registered in the provision of rations and fuel, their delivery continues to rely on expensive and unsustainable air transportation services, in particular in areas where the main supply routes remain impassable owing to a variety of factors, ranging from the threat of improvised explosive devices, to poor road networks to frequent Al-Shabaab ambushes on AMISOM convoys. While improved counter-improvised explosive device training and awareness have greatly enhanced AMISOM capacity to identify and successfully destroy improvised explosive devices on the main supply routes, the threat still remains. It is therefore expected that the operationalization of the recommendations of the workshop on main supply routes, held in Nairobi from 27 to 30 March 2017, will increase AMISOM capacity to use road transport as the primary means of moving supplies within the Mission area.

35. With regard to transport, the delay in establishing maintenance facilities in all sectors, coupled with difficulties in the timely acquisition of spare parts, still persist and continue to hinder overall maintenance and repair capabilities, leading to the low serviceability of operational vehicles, which remains considerably below the minimum operational threshold of 75 per cent. The situation is worsened by the long lead times involved in the acquisition of spare parts, thus adversely affecting the operational effectiveness of the contingents concerned. It may be advisable for the UNSOS procurement system to ensure more flexibility in order to adapt to the demands of a peace enforcement mission such as AMISOM.

36. Although significant improvement has been noted in the provision of accommodation and office infrastructure across sectors, the construction of pending sector hubs and the provision of water remain challenging. To ensure the provision of bulk and potable water, letters of authorization were issued to the Ethiopian Defence Forces for the sinking of several boreholes in the relevant sectors, and similar arrangements are being finalized with the Kenyan Defence Forces for additional boreholes in sector 2.

37. It should be noted that, despite UNSOS efforts to maintain partner-owned equipment, a significant number of armoured personnel carriers in sectors 5 and 6 are unserviceable and require urgent repair in order for AMISOM to have robust combat capabilities for ongoing and planned offensive operations.

X. Observations

38. In the light of the above, I would like to make five brief observations for the consideration of the Peace and Security Council.

39. First, over the course of the last decade, the deployment of AMISOM in Somalia has facilitated progress and laid the foundation for political and security gains in Somalia. This conclusion was reached during the recently concluded 10-year lessons-learned study on AMISOM. It will be recalled that, on 6 September 2016, the Council directed the Commission to conduct a lessons-learned study on AMISOM in order to review key achievements and challenges and to propose recommendations on the way forward. This request was reiterated during the 649th meeting of the Council, held on 23 January 2017, where the members of the Council

requested that the lessons-learned study be finalized. Pursuant to that directive, the Commission and AMISOM jointly organized a lessons-learned workshop in Nairobi on 9 and 10 March 2017. The report on the study is being finalized by the Commission, and the Council may wish to consider convening a dedicated session to review the findings of the study.

40. Second, the gains made by AMISOM can only be sustained through an inclusive political process agreed upon by national stakeholders in Somalia, in particular the Federal Government of Somalia and the federal member states. In this regard, the Council may wish to reiterate the satisfaction expressed by the Commission, AMISOM and international partners with respect to the political process that commenced following the meeting held on 17 April 2017 within the framework of the National Security Council, chaired by the President of Somalia, which led to an agreement on key points concerning Somalia's national security architecture. This political process will be significant for promoting an inclusive outcome that will be integral to more effective and coherent support from the international community.

41. Third, international commitment and support for Somalia has never been more important. I would like to stress the point made by my United Nations counterpart, António Guterres, during a joint press statement following the United Nations-African Union annual conference on 19 April 2017, at which he noted that "operations like the operations of AMISOM, where the African Union is committed in Somalia, not only to preserve the peace but to make sure that peace prevails, are operations that need to have much stronger support from the international community and need to have predictable funding, namely, in my opinion, also through the possibility of assessed contributions". Resourcing AMISOM and supporting Somalia are not solely African responsibilities, but are obligations that the international community must meet as a means of achieving collective security.

42. Fourth, enhanced coordination of support by international partners to security institutions in Somalia is imperative, as is support premised on transparency and a comprehensive verified assessment of current capabilities and requirements of Somali security institutions. There is a need to ensure accountability for and harmonization of training of Somali security forces. Training should be conducted within the territory of Somalia and focus more on the training of trainers to ensure empowerment and sustainability. In this respect, consideration should be given to the development of enhanced cooperation through agreed arrangements on partner support to the security sector and institution building in Somalia. Moreover, AMISOM and the wider international community need to assist the Federal Government of Somalia in developing and implementing the accountability mechanisms necessary for international logistics and financial support.

43. Finally, the role of AMISOM will continue to be relevant beyond 2018, within the ongoing strategy for the takeover of primary responsibility by the national security forces. The upcoming joint African Union-United Nations review should provide an opportunity to review and redefine tasks, as well as options for the reconfiguration of AMISOM, underpinned by a political consensus among all relevant stakeholders. This includes greater consensus on what roles AMISOM should play beyond peace enforcement with regard to the policing and civilian components of international engagement in Somalia. Moreover, there is an urgent need to retain focus on the alignment of mandated tasks and available resources. As the troop- and police-contributing countries have repeatedly expressed, the presence of AMISOM beyond 2018 will be defined by an imperative to sustain African solidarity and partnership with the international community that is based on mutual respect, accountability and resources.